



## World Christian Fellowship

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### Test yourself- Are you a Christian?

#### Part 04

1. Fellowship with God and Christ
2. Sensitive to Sin
3. Obedience to Word of God
4. Hating Evil
5. Waiting for Christ 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
6. Decreasing Pattern of Sin in Your Life
7. Loving Other Christians
8. Do You Experience Answered Prayer?

#### **9. Do You Experience the Ministry of the Holy Spirit?**

**1 John 4:13**, *By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*

The first thing the Holy Spirit did was to testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

**1 John 4:14**, *And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world.*

If you confess that Jesus is the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, and have committed your life to Him, that was the Spirit's doing.

Apart from the Holy Spirit, you wouldn't know who Christ is and you certainly wouldn't confess Him as Savior and Lord.

**Have you experienced that ministry of the Holy Spirit?**

If so, that's evidence of being a true child of God.

Another vital work of the Spirit is His illuminating your understanding of Scripture.

**1 John 2:27**, *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

**1 Corinthians 2:9-12**, *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” <sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in*

*him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.<sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

Fellowship with God?

**Galatians 4:6**, *And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, Abba, Father!"*

It is a sign of your intimacy and communion with God.

**What about praise?**

**Who is it that lifts your heart to praise and adore God?**

**Ephesians 5:18-19**, *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*

Paul explains that the filling of the Spirit leads to speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

**What about the fruit of the Spirit?**

**Galatians 5:22-23**, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

**Those attitudes are spiritual graces. Have they graced your life as a whole?**

Have you ever ministered in a spiritual way through helping someone, giving to someone, or speaking to someone about Christ?

Those are evidences of the Spirit of God.

Do you actually experience His ministry in your life?

**Romans 8:16**, *"the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God."*

There's no audible voice, nothing esoteric or mystical, but something very concrete. He bears witness by providing you with evidence of His presence in your life—by illuminating Scripture to you, drawing you into fellowship with God through prayer and praise, producing spiritual fruit to grace your life, and enabling you to minister effectively to others.

If the Spirit is in your life, that's evidence that you abide in God and He in you (**1 John 4:13**).

So be assured.

Don't let your heart condemn you, damn you, tell you you are not a believer. Recognize the Spirit's work in you.

## 10. Can You Discern between Spiritual Truth and Error?

**1 John 4:1-3**, *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

Every false religious system in the world violates that test!

Adherents of such systems consistently attempt to undermine the biblical truth about who Jesus Christ is and what He accomplished—that He is Saviour and Lord, who came in human flesh.

**Romans 4:25**, *who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.*

Can you tell when someone is presenting false teaching about the person and work of Christ?

That is the watershed issue of the Christian faith.

Who are the false teachers?

**1 John 4:5-6**, *They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. <sup>6</sup> We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

John was saying a true believer will listen to the truth and not deviate into error about Christ's glorious person and work.

Suppose someone says, "I used to believe in Jesus Christ, but now I have seen the light. Christ really was an angelic being or an creation from God, a divine spirit without the human element, or just a man and not divine." Any such nothing but refelects an unregenerate heart.

From the moment of your salvation, there's one thing you are clear about and that is who Christ is and what He did, or you wouldn't be saved.

The Holy Spirit who made that clear to about it to you. This test is not moral or experiential but doctrinal.

True believers know truth from error because the Spirit of Truth indwells them.

**1 John 5;1**, *"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God"*

That's the same doctrinal test again. When you believe the right thing about Christ, you are born of God.

It's good to be a believer, but it's also good to be skeptical.

**1 John 4:1**, *"Do not believe every spirit"*

For the sake of your spiritual life and health, don't believe everything you hear, see, and read.

Instead, "Test the spirits to see whether they are from God." That requires the ability to think biblically.

The Greek text indicates a rigorous, ongoing examination of whatever and whomever you expose yourself to.

### **Why go to all that trouble?**

*this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

The conquering of the city of Troy is one of the most famous stories of antiquity. Greek soldiers had laid siege to the city for over ten years, but were unable to conquer it. In exasperation Odysseus, a brilliant strategist, decided to have a large wooden horse built and left outside the city walls as a supposed gift to the unconquerable Trojans. The Greeks then sailed away in apparent defeat. The curious and proud Trojans brought the wooden horse inside their fortified walls. That night Greek soldiers hidden inside the horse crept out and opened the city

gates to let their fellow soldiers into the city. The soldiers massacred the inhabitants, looted the city, and burned it to the ground. Ever since, the Trojan horse has been a symbol of infiltration and deception. Throughout its history, the church has embraced many Trojan horses filled with false prophets.

Satan has effectively used enemies disguised as gifts to lure people away from the truth of God and into destructive error.

Today's church is in a particularly severe state of confusion because of its weak doctrine, relativistic thinking, worldly methodology, inaccurate interpretation of Scripture, lax internal discipline, and spiritual immaturity.

What is sorely needed is spiritual discernment!  
The skill of separating divine truth from error.

**1 Thessalnans 5:21**, *Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

Perhaps you are discerning in the everyday affairs of life.

You read nutritional labels because you want to be healthy.  
You read the fine print of the terms and conditions before signing up any contract!

If you need surgery, you carefully select the right doctor.  
Maybe you are highly analytical about politics and can accurately assess a plethora of domestic and foreign issues.



But can you discern between divine truth and error?

To discern that effectively; John asks us to do 2 things.

1. Confession of the divine Lord (1 John 4:2-3)
2. Commitment to the divine Word (1 John 4:4-6).

If you study the cults, you will detect a pattern. Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, and the like attack the person of Christ and then hypothesise a substitute or addition to the Bible, such as Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, The Book of Mormon, or The Pearl of Great Price. True believers won't believe such lies.

They have a resident truth teacher in the person of the Holy Spirit (**1 John 2:27**).

You don't have to be a seminary graduate or an expert on cults and world religions to distinguish truth from error.

Don't move from the basic truths of Christ's divine person, work, and Word, that's evidence of genuine saving faith.